



**Price of a barrel of petroleum**  
**US\$ 69.45**  
↓2.51

**INSIDE TODAY**  
**WORLD NEWS**  
**AQUINO DIES**



In this Sunday Aug. 17, 2008 file picture, cancer-stricken former Philippine President Corazon Aquino smiles to friends inside the church at the Ateneo de Manila University in suburban Quezon City, Philippines. Aquino died, her family said Friday, July 31, 2009.

*See Page B6*

**RE-BUICKED NEWS**

Tiger Woods acknowledges



the crowd after his putt on the 7th hole during the second round of the Buick Open golf tournament at Warwick Hills in Grand Blanc, Mich., Friday, July 31, 2009.

*See Sports Today on Page B10*

*A new Activities Center*

## La Cabana Inaugurates "La Cabana Iguanas"

EAGLE BEACH – The Activities Team at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club and Greta de Cuba, the Recreation Manager, were pleased to inaugurate their new kid corner, a nicely stocked activities center, by the side of the pool deck.

The space will be used for arts and crafts, storytelling and games, as La Cabana, in the words of Jessica Franken, is all about having fun.

The resort's dedicated assistant general manager welcomed guests to the small gathering and reiterated the property's commitment to family members of all ages.

*Continued on Next Page*



## Jairo rocks Palm Beach with Music



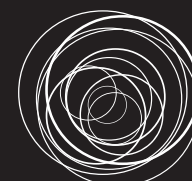
SOUTH BEACH CENTRE – Having entertained a large crowd of locals and visitors on Friday night at Rembrandt Café, South Beach Centre, Acoustic Soul is continuing its interactive musical tour by playing at Buster's Garage Sunday Night. If you missed Jairo Boekhoudt and his amazing fellow musicians on Friday, catch them playing on Sunday, also at the South Beach Centre. Friday delivered a variety of musical genres. "Our repertoire has been ever expanding," says the dynamic singer famous for his unusual blend of leaps & jumps, his stage acrobatic, with curls flying, fans singing, beer flowing, bar hopping, and chandeliers swinging.

*Continued on Page 3*



# OPEN

AT  **RENAISSANCE**  
MARKETPLACE



**CILO**  
city lounge  
ARUBA



# La Cabana Inaugurates "La Cabana Iguanas"



Continued from Front Page Refreshments were served, and the kids who waited patiently at the door, just couldn't wait to get in and do what they do best, which is play!

Nick Heyden, of the Front Office, suggested the name for the new center, and it stuck!! Congratulations to the team, on a fantastic renovation job! □



Don't miss our Plentiful Paella!

A dinner under the Caribbean sky!

**Las Ramblas**

Tapas & Charcoal Grill

The menu features authentic spanish tapas and entrees such as delicious Seafood Paella, USDA Beef Tenderloin & New Zealand Lamb Chops from the charcoal grill.

Open from 6.00pm - 10.30pm. Closed on Sundays and Wednesdays.  
Reservation recommended  
For reservation call 520-1100 ext. 6154

LA CABANA  
beach and racquet club

Visit us at our NEW location on La Cabana's Boardwalk



# Jairo rocks Palm Beach with Music



*Continued from Front Page*  
Now with new songs by Katy Perry, Black Eyed Peas, Alice Cooper, even Carlos Vives and Mana, Acoustic Soul is

all out to please fans and rock the universe, regardless of age and genre.

And the crowds are continuously growing, along with that famous repertory. □



## SATURDAY'S LOBSTER NIGHT

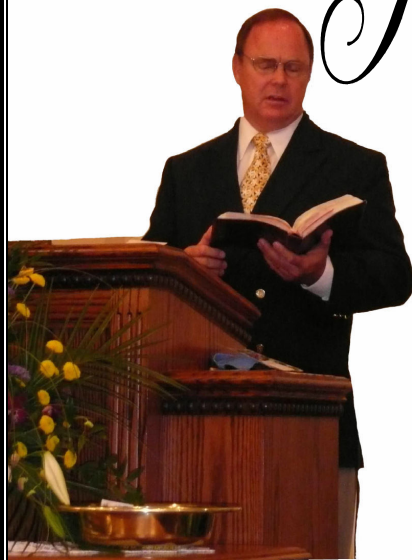


**\$ 34.95** per person  
+ 15% s.c and 3% Gov. tax

New England clam chowder or tossed salad with choice of dressing  
Steamed Maine lobster with drawn butter and lemon or  
broiled Maine lobster with cornbread and crab meat stuffing.



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## Good News

### Baptist Church of Aruba

For more information please call us  
at 582-8855 or 567-2463

Our services are in English and  
translated into Spanish and  
Papiamentu

**We would love to have you visit with us!**



# Kiwanis meets sponsors Wine and Cheese Party




ORANJESTAD - Kiwanis Club of Aruba hosted a meeting this morning with the sponsors of the yearly Wine & Cheese Party at Smith & Dorlas coffee house.

Thanks to Aruba Trading, Romar Trading, Playa Liquor, Arion Wine Co, Pepia Est, and Elcey Trading, Kiwanis Club of Aruba is able to help many institutions on the



Kiwanis Club of Aruba




Kiwanis Club of Aruba

**Kiwanis Club of Aruba**

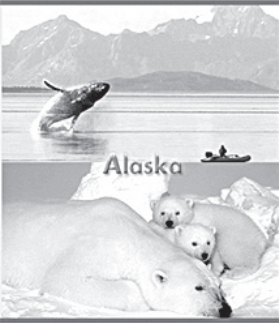
**Alaskan**

**Wine & Cheese Party**


Kiwanis Club of Aruba




Kiwanis Club of Aruba



Alaska




Glacier Bay



Alaska

September 26, 2009

Door prize Stub



**ALL PROCEEDS FOR ARUBAN CHARITIES**

Many fabulous door prizes. Kiwanis will hand over the grand prize to the buyer of the winning ticket as registered by the club.


Place: Renaissance Convention Center    Dress: Alaskan Formal/Captains Dinner

Date: September 26, 2009    Music: Tsunami & Robert Jeandor & Solo Banda Show

Time: 8:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.    Price: fls. 300,- per couple

September 26, 2009

Entrance Stub





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## SPORTS BOOK

No charge or tax on winnings  
Live simulcast of all major tracks  
Highest limits in Aruba  
Sports Book opens at 12:30 pm

## POKER ROOM EARLY BIRD SPECIAL 7 p.m.

TEXAS HOLD-EM  
\$4-\$8 LIMIT

**BUY-IN FOR \$30 RECEIVE \$60 IN CHIPS**  
**MUST PLAY THREE (3) HOURS**

Monday \$10 buy-in \$1500 Guaranteed  
Tuesday \$10 Buy-in \$1,500 Guaranteed  
Wednesday \$10 Buy-in \$1,500 Guaranteed  
Thursday \$10 Buy-in \$1,500 Guaranteed  
Friday \$10 Buy-in \$1,500 Guaranteed  
Saturday \$25 buy-in  
Sunday \$10 buy-in \$1,500 (at 5pm)

(Tournaments are subject to charge as per Management criteria)  
Only Casino in Aruba Where dealer stands on Soft 17

## SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE



## EL LATIN SON



**AVENTURA MALL DOWNTOWN 5885695**

Island and in particular the children and with out the help of these suppliers we are able to do so. Also a special thanks to Smith & Dorlas who is also the coffee & tea sponsor for this event. This years Kiwanis is going to Alaska and the main prize is a cruise for two incl airfare & pocket change. Few tickets are still available at any of our members. Ask for your tickets today!

It promises to be a extraordinary nice event. Don't miss it! For more information on Kiwanis and upcoming events, please visit our website [www.kiwanisaruba.org](http://www.kiwanisaruba.org)



# A fantastic donation from Superfood and its Bakery to the Clown Doctors



ORANJESTAD - Clown Poeroenchi of the Clown Doctors of Aruba received a wonderful surprise last Thursday morning when she went shopping at Superfood Supermarket. There, the clown was welcomed by Mrs. Tica Bashabao and a television team of TeleAruba, who were filming the BBQ promotion of the popular supermarket. While the cameras were rolling, Superfood's Jacques wrote out a cheque of AWG. 5,000,- - which Claudia Carty of the Bakery donated to Poeroenchi. The donation was the result of the Superfood's Bakery clowns' cream pie campaign. A percentage of every pie went to the Clown Doctors foundation. As many shoppers experienced weakness in the knees and a severe case of mouth watering when looking at the pies, a tremendous amount of the delicacy was sold. Superfood supermarket added to the total and voilà: a super cheque to the worthwhile organization. The Clown Doctors visit the children's ward of the Dr. Horacio Oduber hospital on a regular basis, but they also go to the elderly at Maris Stella and Paviljoen and to the mentally challenged children of Bibito Pin and Dununman. Their work is very specialized and they receive a salary, which is the reason why the Clown Doctors foundation needs donations. Superfood's cheque was truly super! Photos show television personality Tica Bashabao together with the team of TeleAruba right before filming the BBQ campaign of Superfood Supermarket, clown Poeroenchi kissing master baker Henk van der Waag of Superfood's Bakery for his cheque while Claudia Carty looks on and an action moment during the filming of TeleAruba's morning program.

## Sensational Summer Spree of Prizes

# WINNERS

of raffle #4, July 30th, 2009

Asing Ng	Afl 3000,-
Philomena Werleman	Afl 2000,-
Margareth Kuiperdaal	Afl 1000,-
Maria Kelly	Afl 500,-
Rosa Daou	Afl 250,-
Lourdes Kelly	Afl 250,-
Eufemio Thielman	Afl 250,-
Jose Suarez	Afl 250,-

## congratulations

next raffle will take place August 6, 2009 at Crystal Casino

# CRYSTAL & SEAPORT CASINOS

**WEEKEND STAY WINNER**  
**Kenia Santana**



# CARILEC 2009 enjoys Renaissance Hospitality



ORANJESTAD — A spectacular lunch party was hosted by the Renaissance Convention Center at the Renaissance Festival Plaza in honor of the Carilec 2009 conference, bringing engineers and suppliers together on the island of Aruba.

While the Engineering Conference event kicked off on Sunday evening with an official ceremony, the supply chain seminar and expo took place on Monday and Tuesday, with an under-the-white-tent interactive lunch midday, Tuesday, serving freshly caught grouper with basil sauce and sliced tenderloin with chimichuri, chased by a local dessert buffet.

Pictured here the colorful set up on the festival plaza, orchestrated by the friendly convention center culinary and banquet team. □



# Excellence rewarded with promotions at the Radisson



PALM BEACH – It gave General Manager Gary Jutz great pleasure to announce a number of well-deserved promotions with in his hotel organization.

Tasha Agana, Senior Assistant Resort Manager was promoted



to Catering and Conference Services Manager.

In her new role, she will be working closely with both the Sales and the Food & Beverage departments. Jutz thanked Agana for her service as Senior Assistant Resort Manager, and reported that in that capacity, she has made a difference, and the resort could expect the same from her in her new role.

Frank Erasmus, Front Office Manager for the past 20-some years, will replace Agana as Senior Assistant Resort Manager. Frank will be working in close contact with Narshell Gibbs Rooms Division Manager and with Director of Resort Operations, Rachel Nordermeer.

Charlene Nectar, Assistant Human Resources Director will be promoted to Front Office Manager. She will report to Rooms Division and to the Director of Resort Operations.

All three manager, Jutz



reiterated, have contributed significantly to the resort, and were handed new and exciting challenges in the reorganization of the resort effective August 1, 2009. Congratulations to Tasha, Frank, and Charlene! □

## Experience authentic regional ambiance every Friday evening at Pam-Pam Café

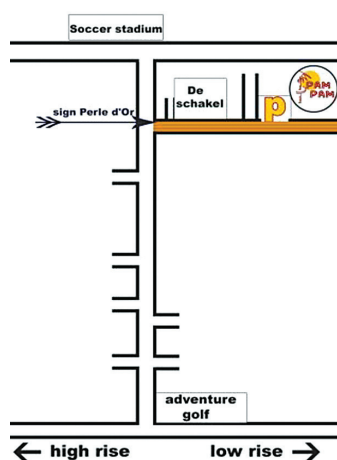


Pam-Pam Café, located in the charming Perle D'Or Resort in Bubali, is the place to be on Friday evenings for a great taste of regional music, dance, food and hospitality, as proprietors and hosts Nico and Monique van de Borne welcome guests for their weekly "Latin Night."

Pam-Pam Café is situated in a delightful tropical setting that is the perfect backdrop for a show by 2002 World Salsa Champions Janice and Oslin Boekhoudt, who run their Pachanga Dance School

out Perle D'Or. They and their dance troupe put on a show of the exotic Zouk, originating from the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and inspiration for the Brazilian Lambada. If their sensual movements inspire any audience members, they can sign up at Pam-Pam for private dance lessons from the Pachanga crew, which also teach Salsa and Merengue.

In addition to the island music and dance, reasonably prices snacks (10.50 in Aruban florins (\$6) for an Assorted Snack Platter or Buffalo Wings among



other choices) and cocktails are available throughout the evening. From 11 PM until closing time, Pam-Pam offers a special on top shelf whiskey for only 6 Aruban



florins (\$3.50)

If you are looking for the "real deal" in Caribbean entertainment and ambiance and a chance to rub elbows with islanders, schedule Pam-Pam Café as your Friday night entertainment!

Pam Pam restaurant

First-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced, and main courses, (25) which are priced between \$13 / \$22.

Pam-Pam's house specialty is a unique method of preparation, which presently,

in Aruba, is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "Gourmet Meal." A grill and a collection of the freshest of ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providing a unique and personal taste treat. It is suggested that reservations for this singular dining experience be made one day in advance.

When you want to see restaurants menu, visit: [www.visitaruba.com](http://www.visitaruba.com) Phone; 5877710 or 5932660 □



Het Binnenhuys presents photographs by Mick Miller

# Aruba's new discovery debuts works with "Sunny 16"



ORANJESTAD - Mick Miller has been a professional restaurateur and later was a professional photographer in his native New Jersey. He and wife Liz, a computer programmer, enjoy their home of four years by the sea in Aruba. This is his first solo exhibition in here.

If you were to talk with him about photography you should

be prepared to spend some time with him, as the conversation could go on for hours. When asked his thoughts about photography as an art form Miller began by explaining a few of the differences between traditional photography, photo illustration and painting.

"With the advent of computers and photo-shop, anyone can take a picture, do some manipulations and add some special effects with the click of the mouse and instantly have a piece of art. That is basically photo illustration and there are people that are very talented at it and produce wonderful, creative pieces of art. I work along the lines of traditional photography where the initial image starts in the camera."

Miller went on to elaborate, "In photo illustration, as in painting, the image is created



by addition. The artist can add anything they desire to the image. Objects, colors; they are only limited by their creative imagination."

"Since photography is the act of recording light reflected off an object I have to work around many variables and limitations. Often I will see something of interest but it will be the wrong time of the day or even the wrong time of the year. This is especially true with landscapes, in which the only control I have is my position, choice of lens, filters and the settings on the camera. For a landscape I may have to return to the scene many times

before I think that everything is right. The angle and quality of the light, the clouds in the sky - it's all taken into consideration before I make the exposure."

He continued, "Whereas painting and photo illustration is additive, my work is subtractive. I view the scene and might notice something that I do not want in the image. That necessitates moving the camera to take the object out of the picture. I'll keep repositioning myself until I have removed anything that I do not want in the final image."

Black & white is his first passion but you will find his



colorwork as equally inspiring. His photographic subjects of interest are landscapes, architecture, floral studies and on occasion, objects and scenes that one might describe as macabre or bizarre.

"Although I now work with a digital camera and computer" Miller said, "I maintain my craft utilizing the tools and techniques of film photography. Filters are used on the camera to create the original images rather than applying them later with a computer program. The computer serves as my chemical-free darkroom and is employed for traditional darkroom techniques such as dodging and burning,

increasing image latitude or toning."

"Photography as an art form has a quality that by its very nature makes it different from say a painting or a sculpture in that it is reproducible. In photography the original image is the negative or as is the case these days, the digital file, and the print of the image is the end product. The great American photographer Ansel Adams once observed, "The negative is comparable to the composer's score and the print to its performance. Each performance differs in subtle way".

An original musical composition can be performed innumerable times and



even have many different arrangements (There are over 2,000 recorded versions of "Louie Louie"). Likewise the photographer's negative can be reproduced innumerable times and even have many different variations. The print variable could be something as simple as the size. It could be as subtle as using a different substrate such as canvas or a paper that is warmer or cooler or with a different texture or finish."

Visiting Aruba for the first time in 1997, Miller fell in love with the island and its people. After many visits he decided to move and became a full time resident in the summer of 2004, eager to leave the hustle and bustle of New Jersey and to live a more idyllic lifestyle. Since arriving in his new home he has been in several group exhibitions, had a joint show at the Toyota Art

Gallery 168 with fellow New Jersey expatriate and painter, Joseph Miklojcik and taught classes at the International School of Aruba.

Sunny 16 will be on view until September 25, 2009 and is an exceptional collection, along with all the other beautiful items on display. The venue, Het Binnenhuys, is not just a store. It is an old mansion restored to its old luster, complete with the original stained glass windows and antique tiling, True Island Class. Het Binnenhuys is also an Art Gallery, and they love to work and participate in the local art scene and in this way are supporting and stimulating the local artists. They carry paintings, objects, statues, home fashion and jewelry. Het Binnenhuys is located at Avenida Milio Croes 26, Oranjestad. □

Photos by Jan Falcione





# Lindsay & Brendan exchange vows & rings at sunset



PUNTA BRAVO - Lindsay Tessier and Brendan Harrington were married on the beach by the rocks at the Divi Resort just before the sun set into the Caribbean Sea. The toes-in-the-sand beach blessing was officiated by Rev. Robert Gibson and coordinated by Jessica Riedstra, Wedding Director Assistant of Aruba Weddings For You. Lindsay and Brendan exchanged eternal vows of

marriage and symbols of a circle with no end before their parents, relatives and friends on July 30th, 2009. The ceremony on the beach concluded with a sand ceremony where the couple mixed their individual sands together into one vase to symbolize their togetherness yet individualism in the

relationship. After the ceremony and posing for sunset and family photos, the newlyweds celebrated their marriage to one another by opening a bottle of champagne and saving the cork for good luck. The beach blessing concluded with the cutting of the cake and sharing it with one another. Congratulations to Lindsay and Brendan Harrington from Aruba Today. □

~Photos by Julia Renfro~





# St Martin delegation apologizes to St Kitts-Nevis government and people

BASSETTERRE, St Kitts (SKNIS) -- Commissioner of Culture, Sport and Youth Affairs in French St Martin, Jean David Richardson, has officially apologized to the government and people of St Kitts and Nevis for an incident that occurred on July 17, 2009, when a visiting Under 17 and Under 15 football team was attacked by players and fans from the French territory. Commissioner Richardson led a five-man delegation to St Kitts on July 28, to meet with senior Government officials including Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Youth, Sam Condor, and Minister of State for Sports, Richard Skerritt. Discussions were also held with representatives from the local football association, parents and other stakeholders.

The visiting delegation included Lou Baley, the Managing Director of Sports; Grégoire Dumel

of the Tourism Authority; Antoine Hunt, the organizer of the competition in which the St Kitts teams participated; and concerned citizen Victor Paine.

During an SKNIS interview, Commissioner Richardson said that the delegation intended to visit the twin-island Federation prior to July 28, but was forced to alter plans due to the ongoing issues within the regional carrier, LIAT. He noted that the bonds between St Kitts and Nevis and St Martin ran deep, which made the July 17 incident particularly troubling.

"My great, great grandfather is a Kittitian. I use to come here for vacation in my young days," he explained. "It really hurt me personally as an individual, not just as a Government official, ... to see the incident. I would like to say especially to the [players and their] family; I don't want them to have

[any] animosity towards St Martin people [because] of a couple of individuals that do not respect the civil laws of the land."

"We as Government made a decision that everyone that was involved will be prosecuted. No stone will be left unturned," stressed the Commissioner.

State and local authorities are currently investigating the matter and one arrest has reportedly been made to date.

The senior French official revealed that his Government has had

personal contact with the players and their families in St Kitts, and have agreed to cover all injury related costs.

He added that Government was not in charge of security for the tournament which was also contested by Guadeloupe and St Maarten (Dutch). Authorities have since made a decision to provide security for all regional sporting, educational and cultural events to avoid a repeat of the incident.

"We want to reassure the population of St Kitts that St Martin people are

not animals or savages. ... We always go out of the way to accommodate anyone that come to St Martin and treat them as equals," he stressed, adding that a "serious [illegal] immigration problem" have not diminished the territory's hospitality.

While noting that his country has a 60 percent youth population, the visiting official stressed that "violence doesn't solve violence. You must safeguard what we have and I want St Kitts youth to [adopt] that mentality as well. Violence doesn't solve any problem." □



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# MACI hosts first CMOU seminar



MACI's CEO Joel Walton (third from left) and Dwight Gardiner, Chairman of the CMOU Port State Control Committee (fourth left), are surrounded by attendees and delegates at the 1st Annual Caribbean Port State Control Seminar held recently at the Grand Cayman Marriott Beach Resort.

The Maritime Authority of the Cayman Islands (MACI) hosted the 1st Annual Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding (CMOU) Port State Control Seminar for port state control officers at the Grand Cayman Marriott Beach Resort.

MACI is the parent organisation of the Cayman Islands Shipping Registry. "The seminar was directed at port state control officers at an intermediate level and was intended to be a sharing

of ideas and experience, to promote better consistency throughout the region and to develop the PSC activities within the CMOU as a whole. And, from all reports, I think we succeeded," said Peter Southgate, MACI Deputy Divisional Director, Global Safety and Compliance.

Port State Control is conducted by maritime authorities around the globe who inspect foreign ships that call into national ports in order to ensure that the condition of the ship and

its equipment comply with the requirements of international regulations and that the ship is manned and operated in compliance with those rules. Delegates from Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, the Netherlands Antilles, Suriname, and the U.S. attended the conference. Local MACI delegates included Messrs. Duncan Currie, Senior Surveyor; Saagar Kadiyala, Surveyor Trainee; Vassel Johnson III,

Surveyor Intern, and Krista Dixon, Maritime Officer, Survey Administration.

Chairman of the CMOU Port State Control Committee, Dwight Gardiner, of Antigua and Barbuda, addressed the Seminar and noted that training is one of the major objectives of the event.

"Continuous training of Port State Control Officers is necessary due to instruments, protocols and amendments that are constantly evolving under the aegis of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO)," he said. He also paid MACI a compliment, saying that, "the Caymanian Administration has set the standard for workshops and meetings."

The seminar was an interactive event and the CMOU Secretariat arranged for contributions from high profile international speakers. These included Markus Helavuori, Maritime Inspector, Finnish Maritime Administration; Joe Riva, Assistant Chief Surveyor – Americas, American Bureau of Shipping, and Tio C. Devaney, Development Manager, Lloyd's Register – North America.

Topics for presentations and discussions included an update on activities by the CMOU Secretariat;

the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (PMOU); MARPOL (International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships); Port State Control (PSC) Measures, Prevention, and Deficiencies; Oil Tanker related issues; the AFS (Anti-Fouling Systems) Convention; a Statutory Update with respect to PSC enforcement; the BWM (Ballast Water Management) Convention, and a workshop on Lifeboat Safety. The idea for the seminar was first spawned from a previous PSC Committee meeting held in Trinidad and Tobago in June 2007 and MACI was eager to host the first event of its kind here in Cayman. The Inaugural Seminar's Chairman was Peter Southgate, and he was supported by a number of MACI personnel during the three-day event, including Nancy Lee Bodden, Manager, Business Development and Client Relationships; Dorisley Jackson, Coordinator, Events; Katrina Pona, Senior Client Service Officer, Collin McRae, Coordinator, Technical Compliance, and Shawanna Hera, Management Trainee. Overall, the feedback from the attendees was extremely positive and the justification for future events clearly established, concluded Mr Southgate. □

## FocalClick looks towards future with new site

WILLEMSTAD, Curacao -- Online gaming affiliate program FocalClick, is pleased to announce the launch of both a new website and a revamped affiliate program on August 1, 2009. FocalClick started operating in 2001 and was one of the Internet's first online gaming affiliate programs.

The new program features a range of improvements certain to attract poker and casino affiliates worldwide including the chance to earn commission based on net gaming revenue, instead of the volume of players referred.

"We believe the new model is much better for our affiliate partners. If you are lucky enough to refer a big player to us, you will receive commission based on that player's performance.

You will continue to earn big revenues based on the player's activity and not on the

number of players referred per month. It's a significant difference," explains Mark Morrow, FocalClick's Affiliate Director.

With the recent success their brands since moving to the Playtech network in December, FocalClick.com has strengthened its team with the addition of new affiliate managers and implemented proactive changes to their affiliate Terms and Conditions. Previously, Focalclick.com had a negative carryover policy only in the rarest of cases but - starting August 1 - the program has instituted a full 'no negative carryover' clause in its terms and conditions.

"With sign-up to depositor conversion rates of 52.6% at SunPoker.com this year, combined with stronger than expected revenues, we have decided that it was time we revamped all of our content and give the website a complete makeover. Additionally we have increased our

staff to include Patrick Gavin, former Affiliate Director of TicketsNow.com who now heads our casino affiliate department, David Paxson, formerly of MGM-Mirage and the Wynn Las Vegas to support our Russian speaking Affiliates, and Ulrike Markgraf, to support our growing German Affiliate business. Our goal is to give our affiliates the very best tools for the job, support and reward them for their hard work," Morrow added.

With the website re-launch, addition of new marketing tools, and positive changes to its affiliate program commission structure and terms and conditions, FocalClick continues to lead the online gaming affiliate industry as it did back in 2001.

You can see the new FocalClick website starting on August 1st by visiting [www.focalclick.com](http://www.focalclick.com) □



# S&P 500 sees best 5-month streak since 1938

By Edward Krudy

NEW YORK (Reuters) – The S&P 500 ended its best five-month streak since 1938 with a slight gain on Friday as government data showed softness in consumer spending but reinforced expectations that the economic slump is abating.

But the mood was cautious as the report on second-quarter gross domestic product showed the U.S. consumer was more frugal, which cut hurt economic demand. Even so, Dow industrials had their best July since 1989 while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq recorded their best gains for July since 1997.

Commodity prices, a barometer for economic sentiment, moved higher after the GDP data, but the price of safe-haven U.S. Treasury debt also rose in a sign of underlying caution. Trading was volatile as investors digested mixed news from the GDP report. Consumer spending, which fell in the quarter, is a crucial driver of corporate profits and the economy. GDP fell at a 1.0 percent annual rate in April-June after tumbling 6.4 percent in the first quarter. Economists had expected a 1.5 percent contraction in the second quarter.

“The GDP number came in better than expected but was masked by a lot of government spending and the consumer pulled back,” said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at Harris Private Bank in Chicago. “When you’re fueling economic growth on government spending, clearly that is not a sustainable situation.

“But overall my take is that we still are going to enjoy a cyclical recovery and the third quarter will likely come in positive territory,” he said.

The Dow Jones industrial average (.DJI) ended up 17.15 points, or 0.19 percent, at 9,171.61. The Standard & Poor’s 500 Index (.SPX) was up 0.73 point, or 0.07 percent, at 987.48. The Nasdaq Composite Index (.IXIC) was down 5.80 points, or 0.29 percent, at 1,978.50.

For the week the Dow rose 0.9 percent, the S&P 500 gained 0.8 percent and the Nasdaq added 0.6 percent. For July the Dow gained 8.6 percent, the S&P added 7.4 percent and Nasdaq rose 7.8 percent. Another report showing that business activity in the U.S. Midwest was the strongest in July in 10 months also lifted stocks. “What you’re seeing is numbers that are an improvement, but a lackluster improvement. They’re less bad, but not great,” said Chad Morganlander a portfolio manager at Stifel, Nicolaus & Co in Florham Park, New Jersey.

Travelers Cos Inc (TRV.N), one of the largest U.S. home, auto and commercial insurers, was a standout following positive broker comments, a day after it raised its forecast for the year. The stock jumped 2.7 percent to \$43.07.

On the downside, Walt Disney Co (DIS.N) shed 4.2 percent to \$25.12. The media and entertainment powerhouse reported a 26 percent slide in quarterly earnings late Thursday as the recession continued to hurt advertising and

consumer spending.

Even though Disney beat expectations by a hair, its shares were the Dow’s top drag. JPMorgan downgraded the stock to “underweight” from “neutral” on Friday.

In other earnings news, Chevron Corp (CVX.N) posted a 71 percent drop in profit on weaker energy prices and fuel demand due to the economic slump, but it raised estimated 2009 output and said cost cuts were on track. The shares rose 2.6 percent to \$69.47.

Volume was moderate on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1.51 billion shares changing hands, compared to last year’s



FILE - In this July 8, 2009 file photo, the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange is seen. Traders are using good news about the economy to add to July’s already enormous advance.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, file)

estimated daily average of 1.49 billion, while on the Nasdaq, about 2.27 billion shares traded, below last year’s daily average of 2.28 billion.

Advancing stocks outnumbered declining ones on the NYSE by a 1879 to 1137, while declining stocks beat advancers on the Nasdaq by 1356 to 1282. □

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# Jackson's personal doctor was in financial trouble



Authorities leave the scene after executing a search warrant at the Red Rock Canyon Country Club residence of Dr. Conrad Murray, Tuesday, July 28, 2009, in Las Vegas. Murray is currently under investigation for his alleged role in the death of pop icon Michael Jackson.

(AP Photo/Daniel Gluskoter)



FILE -- This is a May 18, 2009, file photo of Sweden's Princess Madeleine in Goteborg, Sweden. A Hamburg court has ordered a German publisher to pay Sweden's Princess Madeleine euro400,000, (US\$560,000) in damages for fabricating stories about her, the parties involved said Friday, July 31, 2009. Sonnenverlag GmbH & Co KG was ordered to pay the damages by the Hamburg state court, which was ruling on an appeal against a lower court's 2007 award of euro300,000 in damages against the publishing house. The publisher's magazines carried false reports about the 27-year-old princess being engaged and pregnant, among other things, her attorney Matthias Prinz told The AP. Madeleine has been dating boyfriend Jonas Bergstrom since 2002, but the couple is neither engaged nor married, nor do they have any children.

(AP Photo/Bjorn Larsson Rosvall/file)

By KEN RITTER and JUSTIN PRITCHARD,

Associated Press Writers

LOS ANGELES—Dr. Conrad Murray was in dire financial shape when he signed on as Michael Jackson's personal physician earlier this year at \$150,000 a month. The Las Vegas cardiologist owed a total of at least \$780,000 in judgments against him and his medical practice, outstanding mortgage payments on his house, delinquent student loans, child support and credit cards. Court records chronicling Murray's woes in Las Vegas,

where authorities searched his home this week as part of a manslaughter investigation into Jackson's death, might help explain why — beyond the chance to get close to a celebrity — Murray seized the chance to keep the pop star healthy through a series of concerts in London. But more than that, the financial pressures on Murray could help prosecutors establish a motive if he ends up facing charges.

"Here he is, dealing with one of the most famous people in the world. There may have been a great deal of pressure to do what Michael Jackson wanted, give him the drugs he wanted, treat him the way Michael Jackson wanted to be treated, even if it wasn't in keeping with medical protocol," said Steve Cron, a criminal defense attorney and adjunct professor at Pepperdine University's law school.

Authorities investigating Jackson's death at his rented Los Angeles mansion believe Murray gave the star a fatal dose of the powerful anesthetic propofol to help him sleep, according to a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is still going on. Propofol is commonly used for surgery and is not meant as a sleep agent or to be given in private homes. Because of its potency, only trained anesthesia professionals are supposed to administer it, and patients are supposed to be constantly monitored.

If prosecutors bring charges, Murray's financial trouble "does potentially provide evidence of good motive for financial-based crimes, including prescribing when there is not a medical necessity," said Rebecca Lonergan, a University of Southern California law professor and former federal prosecutor of health care fraud cases.

Murray, 56, has not spoken publicly since Jackson's June 25 death. His lawyer,

Edward Chernoff, has said the doctor did not prescribe anything that "should have" killed Jackson.

Murray was hired through Jackson's promoter in May, as his bleak financial picture threatened to worsen. He was under court orders to pay more than \$363,000 for equipment for his heart clinic, and was ordered in April to repay \$71,000 in student loans dating to the 1980s. Two lawsuits claiming he owes \$240,000 more for unpaid equipment are pending in Nevada courts.

Also, Murray's 5,268-square-foot home near the 18th hole of a golf course is in "pre-foreclosure" after he failed to make payments on his \$1.66 million loan, records show. He stopped paying the \$15,000-per-month mortgage in December and could lose the home by November, said Mary Hunt, the foreclosure officer handling the case.

Neither Jackson nor AEG Live, the promoter for the London concerts that was prepared to pay him \$150,000 a month, paid Murray for the two months the doctor worked for the pop star, according to Chernoff.

"Dr. Murray has lost the ability to make a living as a result of this investigation," Chernoff said. "His hope is he can forestall foreclosure until he can once again begin working as a doctor."

Murray's cresting financial woes fit into a history of money problems. He filed for bankruptcy in California in 1992 and had a string of tax liens in California and Arizona between 1993 and 2003. Also, a former business partner in an energy-drink distribution venture claimed Murray owed him \$68,000.

John Thomas, distributor of a drink called Pit Bull, said that in 2005 and 2006 Murray had the rights to distribute the product in Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean island nation where Murray lived and worked before coming to the United States in the 1980s to study medicine. □

## Princess wins suit against German publisher

By DAVID RISING,  
Associated Press Writer

BERLIN — A Hamburg court has ordered a German publisher to pay Sweden's Princess Madeleine \$560,000 in damages for fabricating stories about her, the parties involved said Friday. Sonnenverlag GmbH & Co KG was ordered to pay the damages by the Hamburg state court, which was ruling on an appeal against a lower court's 2007 award of \$264,000 in damages against the publishing house.

The publisher's magazines carried false reports about the 27-year-old princess being engaged and pregnant, among other things, her attorney Matthias Prinz told The AP.

Madeleine has been dating boyfriend Jonas Bergstrom since 2002, but the couple is neither engaged nor married, nor do they have any children.

Sonnenverlag puts out a raft of magazines in Germany, and the reports were carried in two weekly women's publications, Frau mit Herz (Woman with Heart) and Welt der Frau, (Woman's World), Prinz said.

"There were scores of untruthful articles about my client in the publications," he said.

The Hamburg state court confirmed that the judgment had been made Thursday, but did not provide further details.

The Swedish Royal Court said in a statement that the court ruled the articles were "untrue and degrading."

"Princess Madeleine intends to donate the money she is finally awarded to charity," the statement said.

Sonnenverlag's parent company, Baden-Baden based KLAMBT media group, also confirmed the ruling in a short statement.

"The amount of the court-ordered damages and the related charges are in the range expected by the KLAMBT media group," the statement said. "Appropriate accounting provisions were already undertaken in 2004."

Company spokesman Jonas Schmieder said he could not provide more information beyond the release, and declined to say whether the company would attempt another appeal.

Madeleine Therese Amelie Josephine — the Princess of Sweden, Duchess of Halsingland and Gastrikland — is the youngest child of King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia.

She has two older siblings, Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Carl Philip. □



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slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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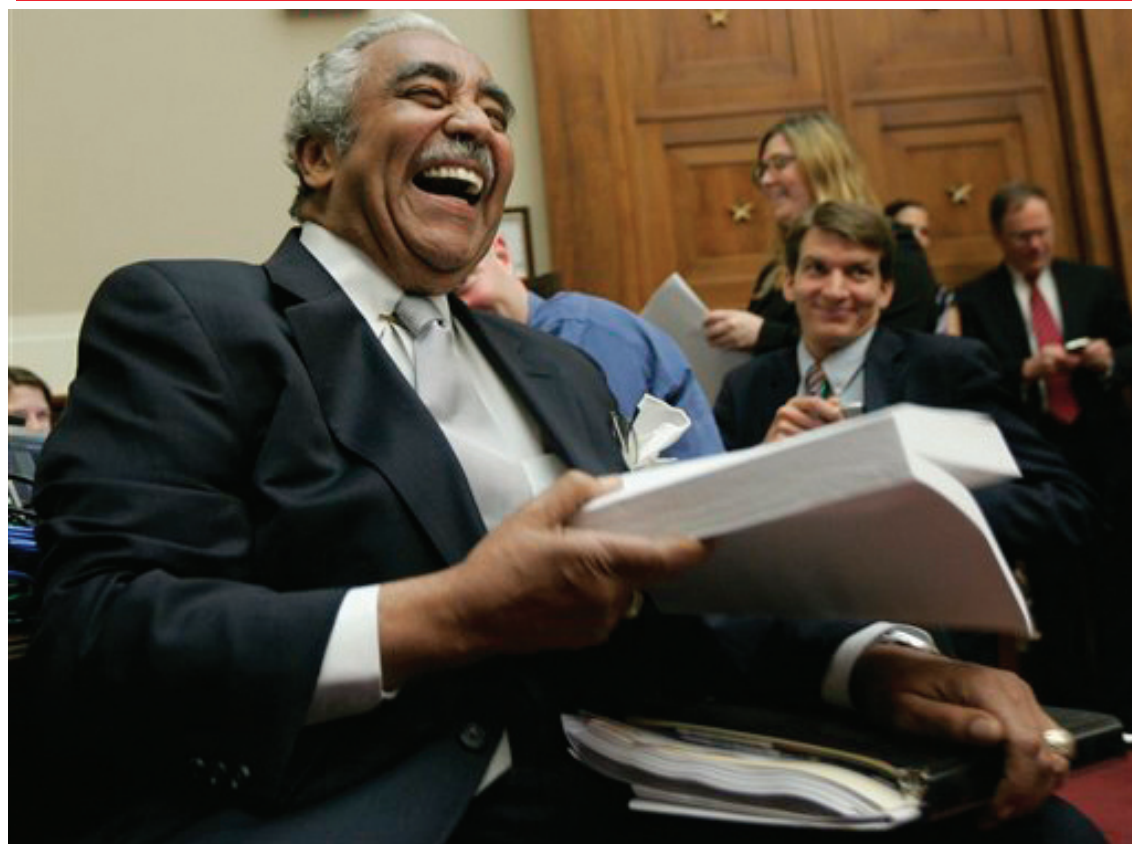
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House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., laughs as he is handed a copy of H.R. 3200, America Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009, as he stopped in on the House Energy and Commerce Committee markup of the bill on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, July 30, 2009.

*Associated Press*

## Dems win approval of health bill in committee

By DAVID ESPO and ERICA WERNER  
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — In a triumph for President Barack Obama, Democrats narrowly pushed sweeping health care legislation through a key congressional committee Friday night and cleared the way for a September showdown in the House.

The 31-28 vote in the House Energy and Commerce Committee, along party lines, was weeks later than either the White House or Democratic leaders had hoped.

As part of a last-minute series of changes, the committee agreed to cap increases in the cost of insurance sold under the bill, and also to give the federal government authority to negotiate directly with drug companies for lower prices under Medicare.

The new provisions were part of an intensive effort Democrats made in recent days to satisfy the conflicting demands of liberals and conservatives on the panel, unity necessary to overcome a solid wall of Republican opposition.

"We have agreed we need to pull together," said Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., the committee chairman who presided over hours of private

negotiations and public committee meetings. Five Democrats opposed the bill.

The measure is designed to extend health insurance to millions who now lack it, at the same time it strives to slow the growth in medical costs nationwide — Obama's twin goals.

While the pace of action was slower than party leaders had hoped, it was speedier by far than the timetable in the Senate.

There, Democrats said a deadline of Sept. 15 had been imposed on marathon talks aimed at producing a bipartisan compromise. Several officials said Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., had informed fellow senators he intends to convene his Finance Committee to begin voting by then.

Without a bipartisan bill, Baucus would presumably have to produce a measure tailored to Democratic specifications, a step he has said repeatedly he would rather avoid.

It wasn't clear how much the deadline was Baucus' idea, and how much it reflected growing impatience at the White House and on the part of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada.

*Continued on Next Page*

## Astronauts return from space to sushi overload



With Space Shuttle Endeavour being serviced behind them, STS-127 commander Mark Polansky, center, speaks at the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Fla. Friday, July 31, 2009. Behind him, from left, mission specialists Christopher Cassidy, Tom Mashburn, pilot Doug Hurley, Canadian Space Agency astronaut Julie Payette and mission specialist Dave Wolf.

*Associated Press*

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Space shuttle Endeavour and its seven astronauts returned to Earth on Friday, completing a long but successful construction job that boosted the size and power of the international space station.

They ended up swamped with sushi.

*Continued on Page B3*

## Myanmar court delays Suu Kyi verdict until Aug. 11

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)

— Judges in Myanmar have postponed the verdict in pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's trial until Aug. 11 — a sign, activists say, that the ruling junta is hesitating in the face of outrage abroad and fears of unrest at home.

The 64-year-old Nobel Peace laureate is accused of violating the terms of her house arrest when she harbored an American man who swam to her lakeside house and secretly entered the compound. Critics say the military has seized upon the bizarre intrusion as an excuse to keep Suu Kyi jailed through next year's scheduled elections — the country's first free vote in



nearly two decades.

But the charges against Suu Kyi — who has been detained for 14 of the last 20 years and was under house arrest at the time of the incident — have refocused international outrage on Myanmar.

*Continued on Page B9*





A copy of H.R. 3200, America Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 sits on the desk of House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., after the markup on the health care bill was postponed on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, July 29, 2009.

## HEALTH BILL

### Continued from Page B1

The Energy and Commerce Committee was the third of three House panels to act on the legislation, a measure that numerous lawmakers note would rearrange one-sixth of the nation's economy. A vote in the full House is expected in September, after lawmakers return from a monthlong vacation.

In the run-up to final approval, the panel handed the drug industry a victory, voting 47-11 to grant 12 years of market protection to high-tech drugs used to combat cancer,

Parkinson's and other deadly diseases. The decision was a setback for the White House, which had hoped to give patients faster access to generic versions of costly biotech medicines like the blockbuster cancer drug Avastin.

Democrats also turned back a Republican bid to strip out a provision allowing the government to sell insurance in competition with private industry. The vote was 31-28, reflecting the shaky majority Democrats had on a 59 committee they nominally controlled with 36 members.

The Democrats who opposed

the final bill were Reps. John Barrow of Georgia; Rick Boucher of Virginia; Jim Matheson of Utah; Charlie Melancon of Louisiana and Bart Stupak of Michigan.

Under the bill, insurance companies would be required to sell coverage to all seeking it, without exclusions for pre-existing medical conditions. The federal government would provide subsidies for lower-income families to help them afford policies that would otherwise be out of their reach.

The bills would set up so-called exchanges, in effect national marketplaces where consumers both with and without subsidies could evaluate different policies and choose the one they wanted.

The main expansion of coverage would not come until 2013 — after the next presidential election.

Even so, the political stakes are enormous for Obama and the Democrats as they strive to pass legislation that has proven elusive for years. Republicans are overwhelmingly opposed to the approach they chose, and outside groups on both sides of the issue arranged a heavy dose of television advertising over August.

"Let me assure you: There will be a health care reform bill passed and it will make a big difference in the lives of the American people," Speaker

Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said in an interview.

But the House Republican Leader, John Boehner of Ohio, countered that "Democrats are in for a long, hot summer once they return to their congressional districts, where Americans are lining up in opposition to a government takeover of health care."

On a vote that crossed party lines, abortion opponents failed in an attempt to bar insurance plans that offer abortion services from accepting customers with government subsidies. The vote was 31-27.

On Thursday night, the panel agreed on a provision saying the government could neither require nor prohibit abortion services in insurance plans sold in the exchange.

Waxman's announcement of a series of last-minute changes capped a tumultuous period that began more than two weeks ago when conservative and moderate Democrats on the panel sought changes.

Needing their votes, Waxman began negotiations that grew to include Pelosi and White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel. An agreement at midweek excluded more businesses from a requirement to offer insurance to their workers and reduced subsidies for lower-income uninsured.

It also swiftly triggered a counter-revolt among liberals,

who demanded the subsidies be restored in full.

The final deal accommodated them without sacrificing the concessions made earlier to the conservatives, and included numerous other provisions.

Insurance plans sold in the exchange would need government approval before increasing premiums by more than one and half times medical inflation. The Bureau of Labor Statistics calculated that medical prices rose at an annual rate of 3.6 percent annually for the three months ending in June. The provision giving the federal government the right to negotiate for better drug prices under Medicare has long been a goal of Democrats who say it could lower costs for seniors. Critics argue that is unlikely unless Congress also limits the drugs that can be sold, thereby giving the government the ability to play one company off against another.

That has long been viewed as politically unfeasible under Medicare, because it would limit the choice that seniors now enjoy.

But including restrictions in the government health insurance option would place it in line with Medicaid, the government program for the poor, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs and many private plans that limit drug choice. □

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Photo by Diane Keijzer

## Bias suit by black U.S. Capitol officers revived

By DEVLIN BARRETT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court on Friday revived a discrimination lawsuit brought by more than 200 black police officers who claim they were mistreated by white supervisors with the U.S. Capitol Police.

The black officers had sued in 2001, charging white senior officers had created a hostile work environment by regularly referring to them with derogatory terms like "gangsters" and in some cases, denying them promotions to the rank of sergeant or lieutenant.

A lower court judge had dismissed the case, saying most of the black officers had not fully pursued mediation before filing the lawsuit. A three-judge appeals panel on Friday reversed that part of the judge's decision and said they could sue.

"It's a great day, and I'm thankful," said Sharon Blackmon-Malloy, a leader of the black officers who retired as a lieutenant on the force two years ago.

Eleven officers in the suit have died since the

case started, she said, "and hopefully now we'll have an opportunity to receive some of the justice that they fought for so dearly all these years."

Capitol police form a highly visible presence in Washington, responsible for protecting congressional buildings, as well as lawmakers and visitors to Congress; the discrimination case centered more on what went on behind closed doors within the force, however.

"The Capitol Police management identified the leading black officers in the ranks and nastily attacked them, called them out unfairly," said attorney Joseph Gebhardt. "They used really bad language all the time. They called the black officers hucks, they called them gangsters to their face."

One officer claimed a noose — a symbol of black lynching — was left on his locker, said Gebhardt, who represents the suing officers. Gebhardt said the 26-page appeals court opinion revives the claims of about 270 black officers, more than half of whom are still on the job. □





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**ASTRONAUT RETURN**  
*Continued from Page B1*

Endeavour's smooth and punctual arrival, after more than two weeks in orbit, set off a steady stream of congratulations and an ecstatic welcoming reception for Koichi Wakata, the first Japanese astronaut to return from a long space journey. His station mission lasted 4 1/2 months.

At his request, sushi awaited him. But it was more than Wakata had anticipated. He was overloaded with sushi as Kennedy Space Center workers dropped off the delicacy at crew quarters. Looking remarkably fit for someone still getting used to gravity, Wakata said four hours after touchdown that he had yet to eat any sushi because of all the medical testing. But he was going to splurge as soon as the crew news conference ended.

"I feel great," he told journalists who jammed an auditorium, most of them Japanese. "When the hatch opened, I really smelled the grass of the ground, and just glad to be back home."

The president of the Japanese Space Agency, among the first to greet Wakata, said the astronaut would be accommodated properly when he returns to Japan in a few months.

"He said he did his best," said President Keiji Tachikawa. The official said he was surprised to see Wakata walking so soon after landing.

The astronauts left behind on the space station said they missed Wakata, even though they were happy with his replacement.

"We certainly miss being there, but there's no place like home," said shuttle commander Mark Polansky. He looked thrilled as he shook hands with senior managers and walked around his spaceship. "What a fantastic mission," he said.

While visiting the space station, Polansky and his crew put on a new addition to Japan's \$1 billion lab, installed fresh batteries, and stockpiled some big spare parts. They accomplished all of their major objectives and were part of the biggest gathering ever in space: Counting the six station residents, the crowd totaled 13.

The shuttle flight lasted 16 days and spanned 6.5 million miles, one of NASA's longest. It wrapped up a 138-day trip for Wakata, who moved into the space station in March. He swapped places with American Timothy Kopra, who rode up on Endeavour. Before leaving orbit, Wakata said he was yearning for some sushi for his first meal back on the planet and a soak in a hot spring once he's back in Japan. At the top of his list, though, was reuniting with his German wife and their 11-year-old son, who were on hand at the space center



**Space Shuttle Endeavour lands at the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Fla. Friday July 31, 2009. Endeavour's seven member crew are returning from a mission to the International Space Station.**

*Associated Press*

for the homecoming. About 50 Japanese, in all, gathered at the landing site.

Wakata made it back just in time for his 46th birthday on Saturday. He said he was looking forward to lots of sushi and good birthday cake, to which Polansky asked, "And you've invited your whole crew, right?"

"Yes — can you handle raw fish?" Wakata said, laughing.

It is Japanese custom to bring souvenirs back from a long trip. When asked by journalists if Wakata did, Tachikawa said the astronaut returned with new ideas and impressions about space. Endeavour's other astronauts carried out

five spacewalks — tying a record for a single flight — and helped their station colleagues when a toilet flooded and an air purifier overheated. The commode, one of three on the linked shuttle and station, was fixed in a day. But the air-cleansing system remained out of order Friday.

Another highlight: The astronauts got to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the first manned moon landing with their own spacewalk. Japan's Kibo lab — which means Hope — received a front porch for outdoor experiments during Endeavour's visit. An X-ray telescope and space environment monitor were

installed on the porch, along with communication equipment.

The mission concluded work on the lab — the largest one at the orbiting outpost — that took more than a year and three shuttle flights. Wakata said seeing Kibo completed was the highlight of his mission.

Next up for the Japanese will be the debut launch in September of an unmanned cargo ship.

As for NASA, seven shuttle flights remain to finish the space station, now 83 percent complete with nearly 700,000 pounds of mass. The next launch, by Discovery, is targeted for the end of August. □

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# House approves \$2B car purchase program



In this July 27, 2009 photo, a woman shops for a car at Springfield Auto Mart in Springfield, Vt., a dealer for Buick, Pontiac and GMC. Above her is a car that was dumped in a dumpster as a visual promotion for the government cash-for-clunkers program. The government's popular "cash for clunkers" program is running out of money as car shoppers flock to dealerships to take advantage of the rebates. The White House says it is assessing its options amid concerns the program's \$1 billion budget may have been depleted.

KEN THOMAS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House of Representatives voted Friday to rush \$2 billion into the popular but financially strapped "cash

*Associated Press*

for clunkers" car purchase program, heeding calls from U.S. consumers who hope to keep taking advantage of the trade-in incentives.

The bill was approved on a vote of 316-109. House members

acted within hours of learning from Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood that the program was running out of money.

The program was set up to boost U.S. auto sales and help struggling automakers through the worst sales slump in more than a quarter-century. Sales for the first half of the year were down 35 percent from the same period in 2008, and analysts are predicting only a modest recovery during the second half of the year.

President Barack Obama said he was encouraged by the House action to keep alive a program that had "succeeded well beyond our expectations."

Called the Car Allowance Rebate System, or CARS, the program is designed to help the economy and the environment by spurring new car sales. Car owners can receive federal subsidies of up to \$4,500 for trading in their old cars for new ones that achieve significantly higher gas mileage.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said the new money for the program would come from funds approved earlier in the year as part of an economic stimulus bill.

The leader of the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, alif., said the cars purchased under the program were much more fuel-efficient than the bill requires.

"Consumers have spoken with their wallets, and they've said they like this program," said Rep. David Obey, a Democrat.

Republicans argued that Democrats were trying to jam the legislation through. Some lawmakers also complained that many dealers were left to contend with a chaotic government-run program.

"The federal government can't process a simple rebate. I've got dealers who have submitted the paperwork three times and have gotten three rejections," said Rep. Pete Hoekstra, a Republican. "What is a dealer

supposed to do?"

There had been a \$1 billion budget for rebates for new car sales in the program that was officially launched last week and has been heavily publicized by automakers and dealers.

The program offers owners of old cars and trucks \$3,500 or \$4,500 toward a new, more fuel-efficient vehicle, in exchange for scrapping their old vehicle. Congress last month approved the plan to boost auto sales and remove some inefficient cars and trucks from the roads.

The Senate was not scheduled to vote on Friday but lawmakers hoped to win approval for additional funding next week. Sen. Carl Levin, a leading Democrat, said the administration assured lawmakers that "deals will be honored until otherwise noted by the White House." But he suggested that "people ought to get in and buy their cars." □

## Sen. Dodd has prostate cancer, will have surgery

SUSAN HAIGH

Associated Press Writer

HARTFORD, Connecticut (AP) — Connecticut Sen. Christopher Dodd said Friday that he has been diagnosed with an early stage of prostate cancer and will have surgery in early August, but the prognosis is good and the illness will not affect his plans to seek a sixth term next year.

Dodd said the cancer was detected in June during his annual physical and the results were confirmed by a biopsy. He said he plans to have surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York shortly after Congress adjourns next week and is "very confident we're going to come out of this well."

"I'm running for re-election," he told reporters at his Hartford office. "I'll be a little leaner, a little meaner, but I'm running."

The 65-year-old Democrat

is chairman of the Senate Banking Committee and is playing a lead role in Congress' attempt to overhaul the U.S. health care system. He took that role while his close friend, Senate health committee Chairman Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts fights his own battle with brain cancer. Unlike other developed countries, the United States lacks universal health care.

Prostate cancer is the most common form of the disease in men in the United States, affecting about 6.4 out of every 100 men in Dodd's age group, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dodd also used the diagnosis to make a pitch for overhauling the U.S. health care system.

"For a person who loses health care coverage, that physical may not be something that you can afford," he said. "I'm fortunate as a member of Congress to have those

benefits."

In Washington, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said he didn't know if President Barack Obama had called Dodd upon learning about the cancer, but said he was likely to call later Friday.

Dodd is facing what's expected to be a tough re-election campaign. A poll last week showed him trailing former Republican U.S. Rep. Rob Simmons, 48 percent to 39 percent, and 52 percent of respondents disapproved of Dodd's job performance.

The Senate ethics committee is looking into whether Dodd violated standards of conduct when he received mortgage discounts from the VIP program at Countrywide Financial Corp.

Dodd, whose committee oversees the banking and financial industries, insists he did not receive special deals. He produced a report showing other lenders would have



offered the same rates and said he thought the VIP program simply meant enhanced customer service and the ability to get a live person on the phone.

Dodd also was caught up in the furor earlier this year over \$165 million in bonuses American International Group Inc. paid some of its employees in 2009 while receiving billions of dollars in federal bailout money.

After first denying it, Dodd admitted he agreed to a request by Treasury Department officials to dilute an executive bonus restriction in the big economic stimulus bill that Congress passed

in February. The change to Dodd's amendment allowed AIG to hand out the bonuses and sparked a blame game between Dodd and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner. Dodd is the son of former Democratic Sen. Thomas J. Dodd. He was elected to the U.S. House in 1974 and was re-elected in 1976 and 1978, and was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1980.

He ran unsuccessfully for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination, dropping out after failing to gain support in the Iowa caucuses.

He is married to the former Jackie Clegg. They have two young daughters. □



# Maine gay marriage opponents submit petitions

GLENN ADAMS

Associated Press Writer

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP)

— Gay marriage opponents hoping to derail Maine's new law before it can take effect submitted petitions Friday that they said contain more than enough signatures to force a people's veto referendum.

Leaders of the Stand for Marriage campaign delivered a stack of cartons holding petitions with more than 100,000 signatures to the

Secretary of State's office, which has until Sept. 4 to certify at least 55,087 of them. If it does so, voters will be asked on Nov. 3 whether to repeal the law.

Maine became poised to recognize same-sex marriages in May, when lawmakers set aside a state law that defines marriage as between a man and a woman.

The other New England states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont

recognize gay marriages, as does Iowa.

Stand for Marriage campaign leaders said at a news conference Friday that the Maine Legislature's action needs to be reversed because traditional marriage between one man and one woman is a basic building block of society that must be protected.

"I am greatly concerned about the Legislature's redefining what has been the very foundation of our civil



Rev. Buddy Gough, of the Stand for Marriage campaign, carries a box of signed petitions to the Secretary of States office following a news conference Friday, July 31, 2009 outside the State House in Augusta, Maine. The group collected more than 100,000 signatures and are seeking a referendum in November on the state's new gay marriage law.

## Indicted NJ mayor resigns after 3 weeks on job

BETH DeFALCO

SAMANTHA HENRY

Associated Press Writers

HOBOKEN, New Jersey (AP)

— The city's mayor resigned Friday just three weeks after taking office, a casualty of a sweeping federal corruption probe that resulted in the arrests of 44 people, including rabbis and dozens of public officials in the New York City area.

Mayor Peter Cammarano III, 32, who won a June runoff election to become Hoboken's youngest mayor, is accused of accepting \$25,000 in bribes in exchange for help on a purported high-rise building project in the city. He was the second elected official to resign in the wake of the arrests. Later Friday, a Republican state assemblyman also facing corruption charges related to his salary and benefits became the third to step down.

Dennis Elwell, the mayor of Secaucus, New Jersey, who was among those arrested in the corruption sweep, resigned earlier this week.

"I apologize to the residents of Hoboken for the disruption and disappointment this case has caused," Cammarano, an election-law attorney, said in his resignation letter. He reiterated his innocence and said he still intends to fight the charges.

New Jersey, the setting for the television mob drama "The Sopranos" and the 1954 Marlon Brando classic "On the Waterfront," about crookedness on the docks, has long been known for government corruption. But over the last five years,

hundreds of government officials from both major parties have been charged with crimes involving betrayal of public trust: taking bribes, getting no-show jobs to boost state pension benefits or lavishly spending public money on themselves.

This month's arrests snared 44, including three mayors, two state assemblymen, five rabbis and many other public officials.

It also brought fresh attention to Hoboken — a 1-square-mile (2.59-square-kilometer) city known as Frank Sinatra's

hometown, one of America's earliest settlements and more recently a nightlife mecca for the young and hip.

Cammarano's arrest comes at a tough time for Hoboken, which sits across the Hudson River from Manhattan and is home to many professionals who work in New York. Financial industry layoffs have hit the New Jersey city hard, flooding the real-estate market with homes for sale or rent. New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine had praised Cammarano as a rising star in the Democratic Party. □

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# Corazon Aquino, former Philippines president, dead at 76

HRVOJE HRANJSKI

Associated Press Writer

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— Former President Corazon Aquino, who swept away a dictator with a “people power” revolt and then sustained democracy by fighting off seven coup attempts in six years, died on Saturday, her son said. She was 76.

The uprising she led in 1986 ended the repressive 20-year regime of Ferdinand Marcos and inspired nonviolent protests across the globe, including those that ended Communist rule in eastern Europe.

But she struggled in office to meet high public expectations. Her land redistribution program fell short of ending economic domination by the



Philippine Senator Benigno “Noy” Aquino III, the only son of former Philippine President Corazon “Cory” Aquino reads his statement as he announces the death of his mother early Saturday Aug.1, 2009, at the Makati Medical Center at Manila’s financial district of Makati city. Aquino died after a long bout with colon cancer. She was 76.

Associated Press

academics, journalists and visitors from Manila, Aquino was the quiet homemaker, raising their five children and serving tea. Away from the hurly-burly of Philippine politics, she described the period as the best of their marriage.

The halcyon days ended when her husband decided to return to regroup the opposition. While she and the children remained in Boston, he flew to Manila, where he was shot as he descended the stairs from the plane.

The government blamed a suspected communist rebel, but subsequent investigations pointed to a soldier who was escorting him from the plane on Aug. 21, 1983.

Aquino heard of the assassination in a phone call from a Japanese journalist. She recalled gathering the children and, as a deeply religious woman, praying for strength.

“During Ninoy’s incarceration and before my presidency, I used to ask why it had always to be us to make the sacrifice,” she said in a 2007 interview with The Philippine Star newspaper. “And then, when Ninoy died, I would say, ‘Why does it have to be me now?’ It seemed like we were always the sacrificial lamb.”

She returned to the Philippines three days later. One week after that, she led the largest funeral procession Manila had seen. Crowd estimates ranged as high as 2 million.

With public opposition mounting against Marcos, he stunned the nation in November 1985 by calling a snap election in a bid to shore up his mandate. The opposition, including then Manila Archbishop Cardinal Jaime L. Sin, urged Aquino to run. After a fierce campaign, the vote was held on Feb. 7, 1986. The National Assembly declared Marcos the winner, but journalists, foreign observers and church leaders alleged massive fraud.

With the result in dispute, a group of military officers mutinied against Marcos on Feb. 22 and holed up with a small force in a military camp in Manila. □

yellow dress remained beloved in the Philippines, where she was affectionately referred to as “Tita (Auntie) Cory.”

“She was headstrong and single-minded in one goal, and that was to remove all vestiges of an entrenched dictatorship,” Raul C. Pangalangan, former dean of the Law School at the University of the Philippines, said in 2009. “We all owe her in a big way.”

Her son, Sen. Benigno “Noy” Aquino III, said his mother died at 3:18 a.m. Saturday (1918 GMT Friday). Aquino was diagnosed with advanced colon cancer last year and confined to a Manila hospital for more than a month. Her son said the cancer had spread to other organs and she was too weak to continue her chemotherapy.

Aquino’s unlikely rise began in 1983 when her husband, opposition leader Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino Jr., was assassinated on the tarmac of Manila’s international airport as he returned from exile in the United States to challenge Marcos, his longtime adversary.

The killing enraged many Filipinos and unleashed a broad-based opposition movement that thrust Aquino into the role of national leader.

“I don’t know anything about the presidency,” she declared in 1985, a year before she agreed

to run against Marcos, uniting the fractious opposition, the business community, and later the armed forces to drive the dictator out.

Maria Corazon Cojuangco was born on Jan. 25, 1933, into a wealthy, politically powerful family in Paniqui, about 75 miles (120 kilometers) north of Manila.

She attended private school in Manila and earned a degree in French from the College of Mount St. Vincent in New York. In 1954 she married Ninoy Aquino, the fiercely ambitious scion of another political family. He rose from provincial governor to senator and finally opposition leader. Marcos, elected president in 1965, declared martial law in 1972 to avoid term limits. He abolished the Congress and jailed Aquino’s husband and thousands of opponents, journalists and activists without charges. Aquino became her husband’s political stand-in, confidant, message carrier and spokeswoman.

A military tribunal sentenced her husband to death for alleged links to communist rebels but, under pressure from U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Marcos allowed him to leave in May 1980 for heart surgery in the U.S.

It was the start of a three-year exile. With her husband at Harvard University holding court with fellow exiles,



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PG	<b>ALIENS IN THE ATTIC</b>	daily: 4:30	6:45	
		matinee: 12:15	2:15	
R	<b>THE HANGOVER</b>	daily: 5:15	7:30	10:00
		matinee: 12:55	3:00	late show: 12:15
PG-13	<b>TRANSFORMER 2</b>	daily: 6:10	9:00	
		matinee: 12:20	3:20	late show: 12:00
PG-13	<b>I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER</b>	daily: 8:00	10:20	
		matinee:		late show: 12:30
PG-13	<b>YEAR ONE</b>	daily: 4:45	7:00	9:15
		matinee: 12:30	2:30	late show: 11:45
PG	<b>HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE</b>	daily: 5:30	8:30	
		matinee: 2:20		late show: 11:30
PG	<b>ICE AGE 3 DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS</b>	daily: 4:00	6:00	
		matinee: 12:00	2:00	late show:

## AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG	<b>G-FORCE</b>	daily: 5:20	7:25	
		matinee: 1:00	3:15	late show:
R	<b>THE UGLY TRUTH</b>	daily: 4:45	6:45	8:45
		matinee: 12:30	2:45	late show: 11:00
PG-13	<b>THE PROPOSAL</b>	daily: 9:40		
		matinee:		late show: 12:15
PG	<b>HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE</b>	daily: 5:00	8:15	
		matinee: 1:30		late show: 11:10
R	<b>THE HANGOVER</b>	daily: 5:30	7:40	10:00
		matinee: 12:40	3:25	late show: 12:30
PG-13	<b>I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER</b>	daily: 4:45	7:00	
		matinee: 12:20	2:30	late show:
PG-13	<b>TRANSFORMER 2</b>	daily: 5:45	8:30	
		matinee: 12:00	3:00	late show: 11:30
PG-13	<b>PUBLIC ENEMIES</b>	daily: 9:15		
		matinee:		late show: 12:05

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## Honduran interim leaders: Zelaya can't be restored

ALEXANDRA OLSON  
FREDDY CUEVAS

Associated Press Writers

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Honduras' coup-installed leader has dampened hopes for a negotiated solution to the country's crisis, capping days of mixed signals by saying firmly that there's no way the ousted president can return to power.

Also marking a tougher stance, riot police fired tear gas and arrested supporters of ousted President Manuel Zelaya who blocked a main artery leading into the Honduran capital Friday. Interim President Roberto Micheletti said his government would no longer tolerate street blockades that regularly snarl traffic in Tegucigalpa and other cities. Micheletti's Foreign Ministry said in a statement it "reserves the right" to cancel visas for U.S. diplomatic personnel in Honduras, in retaliation for Washington's decision this week to revoke the diplomatic visas of four Honduran officials. However the government did not take any immediate steps against U.S. diplomats.

Zelaya's return has been a key demand of crisis mediator and Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who also has proposed amnesty for the coup plotters and other measures as part of a compromise deal.

But on Friday, a judge in Honduras issued yet another set of arrest warrants against Zelaya and three other former officials for alleged falsification of public records, fraud and abuse of authority. The charges are related to the alleged misappropriation of \$2 million in government funds to pay for ads by Zelaya's administration in January.

The interim government

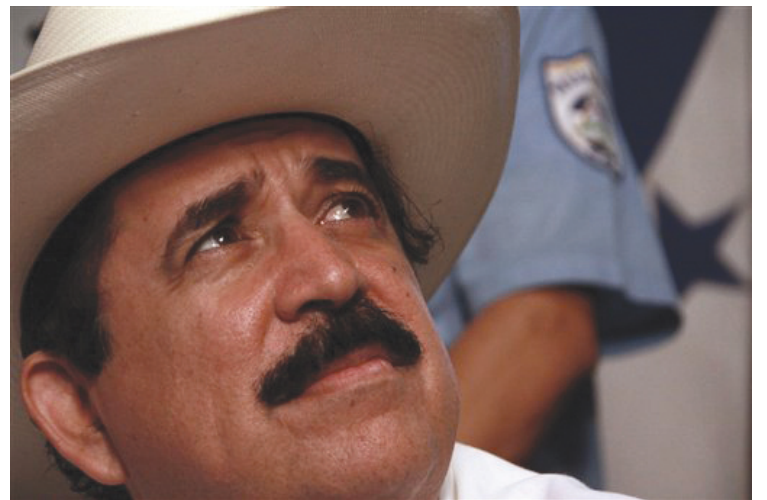
previously announced Zelaya faces charges of treason, usurping the powers of other branches of government, abuse of authority and trying to undermine Honduras' system of government.

Zelaya told a television station in Managua, Nicaragua on Friday that "either they reverse the coup, or there will be generalized violence," although he later told Mexico's Radio Formula that he wanted to avoid any bloodshed.

Zelaya also announced plans to travel next week to Mexico, where the government confirmed he will meet with President Felipe Calderon on Tuesday. Micheletti, installed by Congress after Zelaya was forcibly flown out of the country on June 28, has sent mixed signals throughout the week on whether he might permit Zelaya's return as part of a deal. On Thursday, a former government official who has been in close contact with Micheletti told The Associated Press that the leader was open to compromising on the issue. But later the same

day, Micheletti denied telling Arias he would soften his stance, saying he was "a man of character who maintains his positions." Zelaya can return to Honduras only to face trial, Micheletti said. "Under no circumstances will we let him take possession of the government."

Arias said Micheletti had asked him to send an envoy to Honduras to jump-start negotiations. He added that he was considering the proposal, and that Zelaya's return to power would be part of any talks. Arias said the envoy would have to meet with several sectors, "especially businessmen ... who have been very reluctant to consider the possibility that Zelaya be reinstated." U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said Friday that Washington holds out hopes for a negotiated solution despite Micheletti's remarks. "We continue to believe that the agreement or the points that President Arias has put forward provides the best opportunity to resolve the



Ousted Honduran President Manuel Zelaya, listens during a news conference in Managua, Thursday, July 30, 2009. As the negotiations drag on, Zelaya has ensconced his government-in-exile in the Nicaraguan town of Ocotal, near the Honduran border, along with hundreds of supporters camped out in shelters.

*Associated Press*

situation," Crowley said. "And we encourage both the de facto regime and President Zelaya to accept the terms." Further complicating matters, Honduras' Congress put off until Monday consideration of a bill granting both sides amnesty from prosecution — an important part of Arias' plan. Congress had originally been scheduled to take up the matter this week. The interim government has long said it hopes to resist international pressure until November elections, which it hopes will weaken calls to restore Zelaya. Zelaya supporters are doing their best to see that doesn't happen: Protesters who want him reinstated blocked the main highway leading out of Tegucigalpa on Friday, coming under tear gas fire from riot police for the second time in two days. □



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In this May 14, 2009 photo provided by the Independent Diplomat, Independent Diplomat member Soren Jessen-Petersen, right, is seen meeting with members of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma. Independent Diplomat, a non-profit group of former diplomats from various nationalities, offer their services to such nations-in-waiting and provide assistance in dealing with difficult matters.

SLOBODAN LEKIC  
Associated Press Writer

BRUSSELS (AP) — Northern Cyprus, Western Sahara and Somaliland may not have

much in common, but they share the same predicament: all are unrecognized states striving to capture international attention.

Associated Press

# Freelance diplomats lend a hand to would-be states

Enter Independent Diplomat — freelance diplomats who offer their assistance to such nations-in-waiting. They have scored a notable success helping Kosovo win independence from Serbia — but critics say they can only accomplish so much without involving governments and should not pretend to have more influence than they do. Thenonprofitgroup, comprised of former diplomats from a variety of nations, stands ready to help would-be governments navigate the complex system of national bureaucracies and international organizations designed to accommodate established nations.

“Very often government or international officials will refuse to talk to our clients, or if they talk to them they’re reluctant to give them the information they need,” said Nicholas Whyte, who heads the Brussels office of the nonprofit group.

“And from our clients’ side, they are often inexperienced in dealing with international bureaucracies precisely because nobody talks to them,” said Whyte, an Irish international affairs expert. With offices in New York, Washington, London, Brussels and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the organization provides its clients with guidance on how to approach foreign governments or international organizations such as the United Nations or the European Union.

The group played a role in helping Kosovo gain independence from Serbia. The province had been under international rule since the war ended in 1999 until declaring independence last year, and has been recognized by about 60 nations so far.

“We received great assistance from them at a time when we needed it most,” said Ilir Dugolli, Kosovo’s representative to the EU.

Independent Diplomat’s \$1.8 million annual budget comes from foundation and government donations, as well as client fees. Clients

are charged according to their ability to pay, with the poorest paying only nominal amounts.

The group also counsels established nations on issues where they lack expertise, including advising the Republic of the Marshall Islands on the U.N. climate change process and working with East European countries applying for EU membership. “Weadvisewould-becountries, but also regular states where we can add our own expertise to theirs, as long as they are democratic countries that respect international law,” said Carne Ross, the group’s founder and director.

He said Independent Diplomat adheres to a strict policy of rejecting clients engaged in armed struggle, such as Hamas in the Gaza Strip or Sri Lanka’s Tamil Tigers.

“If Robert Mugabe came to us for advice, we wouldn’t help him,” said Ross, a former senior British diplomat, referring to the Zimbabwean president.

The organization says it has had significant impact as an intermediary, including arranging a recent meeting between EU officials and the president of Western Sahara’s government-in-exile. The territory was taken over by Morocco 35 years ago, and although a U.N.-negotiated truce in 1991 called for a referendum on its future, this has never been held.

Independent Diplomat “are our true friends,” said Mohamed Abdelaziz, who leads the government-in-exile based in a refugee camp in the Algerian desert.

The self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus requested the group’s assistance in negotiations to reunify the Turkish and Greek parts of the island. Cyprus was split along ethnic lines after the Turkish invasion in 1974, and thousands of Greek as well as Turkish Cypriots fled to the southern part of the island.

“Turkish Cypriots are institutionally disadvantaged

by the policies of the international community, and yet are expected to carry on with the peace process,” Whyte said.

However, Cypriot officials dismissed the group as outsiders with no influence over island policy.

“The Republic of Cyprus was accepted into the European Union in 2004 with full legal sovereignty over the entire territory” of Cyprus, said an official who spoke on condition of anonymity in keeping with government policy. “That’s certainly not going to change whatever anyone from the outside says or does.”

Robert Cooper, secretary-general of the European Council in Brussels, also questioned the group’s influence.

“Achieving anything in foreign affairs is very difficult for non-governmental groups,” he said. “Some NGOs perform extremely valuable work and are well respected ... but in the end nothing is achieved without governments (and) they should not pretend that they have influence when they don’t.”

Still, Richard Dalton, the former British ambassador to Iran, said those involved in the endeavor were “individually capable people” who could make a difference.

“Their philosophy and their code — and the approach that they take — does fill a gap for countries and for movements who don’t have access to the international system,” he said. International recognition has eluded Somaliland, the self-declared republic in the north of Somalia which has had an effective government for almost two decades, including its own currency and a viable economy.

“International policy has been predicated on shoring up Somalia’s weak and embattled central government rather than supporting the one part of the country that has demonstrated its ability to avoid conflict,” Whyte said. □



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**MYANMAR**

*Continued from Page B1*

Activists and other supporters of Suu Kyi said it was difficult to determine the reason behind the delay, announced Friday, though the regime may be struggling with how to present the verdict — which Suu Kyi herself has said is already “painfully obvious” — to the world.

“The postponement may show they are having a difficult time. In other words, this may show they are feeling the heat especially from outside the country,” said Soe Aung, a spokesman for Forum for Democracy in Burma, a Thai-based, pro-democracy coalition.

Others noted the ruling generals may worry the announcement would set off protests — and so have pushed it to after the sensitive Aug. 8 anniversary of the failed 1988 uprisings.

“The announcement of a guilty verdict will instigate public anger and will be easier for underground activists to organize mass demonstration,”

said Aung Din, executive director of the U.S. Campaign for Burma.

Authorities were clearly anxious ahead of the trial, detaining 10 members of Suu Kyi’s opposition party, the National League for Democracy.

Thus far, however, neither outside pressure nor the possibility of better economic and political ties with the West has deterred the ruling junta, which appears determined to keep Suu Kyi out of the public eye.

Jared Genser, Suu Kyi’s international counsel, said the junta may simply be hoping the delay will do just that — bury the news item in the height of summer.

“It is in some ways a smart move — push off the verdict until the middle of August when numerous government and U.N. officials around the world will be on vacation,” Genser said in an e-mail statement.

International criticism of the trial has been building since it began May 18, and outrage



Two Myanmar prison guards stand at the entrance to Insein prison where the trial of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi is taking place Friday, July 31, 2009 in Yangon, Myanmar. The Myanmar court scheduled to deliver a highly anticipated verdict Friday in the trial of Suu Kyi adjourned until Aug. 11, saying it needed more time to consider relevant legal issues, lawyers said.

*Associated Press*

appeared to peak this month during ASEAN’s Regional Forum, when Southeast Asian countries took the unusual step of joining reliable critics like the United States in condemning the regime and calling for Suu Kyi’s release. The members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations generally refrain from criticizing one another.

Minutes after the proceedings

began Friday, the judges indicated they were not prepared to rule.

“Judge Thun Nyunt said the trial is adjourned until Aug. 11 to consider some legal issues concerning the case,” defense lawyer Nyan Win told reporters.

Verdicts were also postponed for the 53-year-old American, John Yettaw, and two women who lived with Suu Kyi

— Khin Khin Win and her daughter Win Ma Ma. The women face similar charges to Suu Kyi, and Yettaw is accused of abetting in violating the house arrest and faces up to five years in prison.

Suu Kyi’s party won national elections in 1990, but Myanmar’s generals, who have ruled the country since 1962, refused to relinquish power. □



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# FINA moves up bodysuit ban to Jan. 1, 2010

ANDREW DAMPF  
AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — No need to worry about a boycott from Michael Phelps anymore. Swimming's governing body FINA set a firm date on Friday of Jan. 1 for banning record-breaking bodysuits, a move that comes partly in response to a threat from Phelps' coach to pull his swimmer from competition until the suits are outlawed.

Earlier this week, FINA announced a ban but said it might not come into effect until April or May — three or four months later than expected.

"Now, without a doubt, the rules are applying Jan. 1, 2010," FINA executive director Cornel Marculescu said. "The manufacturers are ready and can begin (suit) submissions Nov. 1 or before."

The comments from Phelps' coach, Bob Bowman, came immediately after the swimmer was upset by unheralded Paul Biedermann of Germany in the 200-meter freestyle Tuesday. Biedermann wore a 100 percent polyurethane Arena suit, while Phelps stuck with last year's LZR Racer from Speedo, which is less than half polyurethane.

"It's going to be cool come Jan. 1 to be able to have all

of us pretty much wearing the same suit," Phelps said Friday after swimming the leadoff leg as the Americans broke the world record in the 800 freestyle relay. "All of this is going to be finished and then we're going to be able to talk about swimming again, not suits."

Last year, Phelps and others with the LZR profited from the suit, while this year suits from Italian manufacturers Arena and Jaked are considered faster. Each of those suits will be banned at the start of next year, when men will be restricted to suits that extend from the waist to the top of the knees, and women to suits that cannot go past the shoulders or beyond the knees.

"I'm just thrilled that they did it, because it's the right thing to do," Bowman said. "We know they want to do the right thing for the sport, they just need to do it, so I'm glad to hear it and so is Michael."

"We'll probably keep our competition scheduled. There will be some little questions about what suit is he going to wear until the end of the year, but they're minor. In training I don't care."

FINA plans to issue new suit guidelines to manufacturers by Sept. 30, and thought about delaying implementation for a few months to give the

companies enough time to produce new suits.

With two days still to go, 35 world records have been set at these world championships, five more than at the last edition two years ago in Melbourne, Australia.

"Comments by Michael Phelps or anyone else we respect, and we do our job and control whatever happens in our sport," Marculescu said. FINA also announced a rule requiring suits to be approved one year before Olympics or world championships, and available commercially six months in advance.

A scientific commission with materials experts from each continent will approve swimsuits and monitor

developments in technology, FINA said.

USA Swimming is considering installing the new suit rules for domestic competition before the end of the year. Polyurethane bodysuits will be banned for a Duel in the Pool competition in Manchester, England, in December, with the United States facing an all-star team from France, Russia and Britain. "We met after prelims this morning and agreed to adopt the rules for that meet," USA Swimming executive director Chuck Wielgus said. "Whether or not USA Swimming adopts those rules any sooner is something we'll talk about when we get home." □



This is a Feb. 12, 2008, file photo showing Olympic gold medalist and world record holder Michael Phelps adjusting his Speedo LZR racer swimsuit following a news conference introducing the high technology suit in New York.

Associated Press

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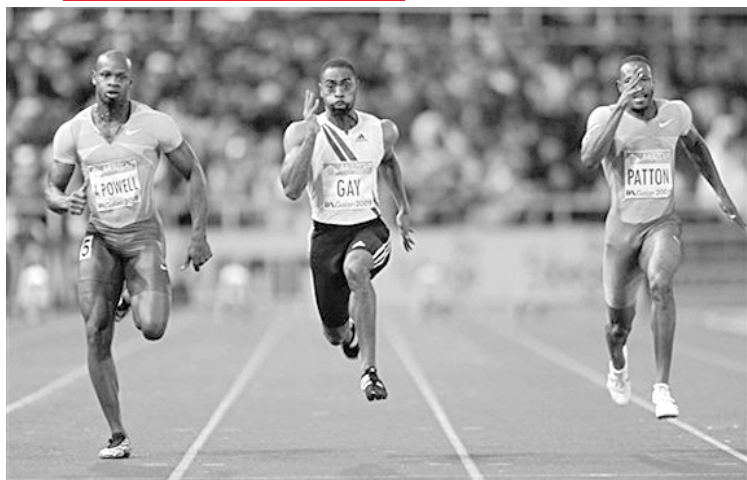
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Tyson Gay, center, of the USA, competes in the 100m event of the DN-Galan track and field meet in Stockholm, Sweden, on Friday July 31, 2009. Gay won the event with 2nd placed Darvis Patton, right, of USA, and Asafa Powell, left, of Jamaica, 3rd.

Associated Press

# Tyson Gay wins 100 in wind-aided 9.79

STEPHAN NASSTROM

AP Sports Writer

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Tyson Gay overcame a poor start to edge fellow American Darvis Patton in the 100 meters at the DN Gala athletics meet Friday, clocking a wind-aided 9.79 seconds.

Patton was timed in 9.95. Former world record-holder Asafa Powell of Jamaica finished third in 9.98.

On a windy and cold evening with a temperature of 61 F, Gay passed Powell before the midway point and snapped the Jamaican's streak of three straight wins at Olympic Stadium.

Gay's time was well below Powell's stadium record of 9.86 from 2006, but the American did not get a 1-carat diamond for breaking the meet mark because of the strong wind.

Any athlete who breaks the stadium record earns a diamond valued at \$10,000 (€6,300).

Gay didn't mind.

"Not really," he said. "I'm kind of glad to win. They pushed me that fast. I'm satisfied with the win. But I had no good start."

The chilly weather didn't bother Gay much either, despite having struggled with a sore groin in London last weekend. "Just a little bit, but I warmed up good," Gay said. "I'm happy. I really don't have a problem running in the cold. I think it was a good run. My groin is a little bit sore, but I didn't feel any pain during

the race." Gay also won his previous meeting with Powell this season in Rome, when he posted the fastest time of the year in 9.77.

Their next meeting will be in Berlin next month at the world championships.

Because of the wind, Powell again failed to become only the second man in history to post more than 50 legal sub-10 second results in the 100. Maurice Greene of the United States tops the all-time list with 53. "I'm pretty close to my top shape," he said. "I'm getting there. I'm happy with my first 50, now I have to work with my last 50. This was a lot better than London."

Last weekend, Powell was only sixth in a race in London won by world record-holder and fellow Jamaican Usain Bolt. □

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# Cuba pospone crucial congreso Partido Comunista

LA HABANA (Reuters) - El presidente de Cuba, Raúl Castro, pospuso la realización del primer congreso del Partido Comunista en 12 años, considerado el evento político del año que fijará el rumbo del país en la era pos Castro, dijo el viernes la prensa oficial. El próximo congreso del Partido Comunista de Cuba (PCC), que estaba programado para la segunda mitad del 2009, podría relevar además al convaleciente líder Fidel Castro como jefe de la única fuerza política de la isla.

“El VII Pleno del Comité Central del Partido acordó posponer la realización del VI Congreso del Partido hasta que se haya vencido esta crucial etapa de preparación previa”, dijo el diario oficial Granma citando a Raúl Castro en una reunión celebrada el miércoles. No fue fijada una nueva fecha.

El anuncio llega cuando se cumplen exactamente tres años de que Fidel Castro enfermó y cedió el poder después de casi medio siglo. El líder revolucionario, que cumplirá 83 años en agosto, fue reemplazado el año pasado en la presidencia por su hermano Raúl, pero retuvo el influyente cargo de primer secretario del PCC.

El congreso del PCC, que la Constitución describe como la “fuerza rectora” de la sociedad cubana, fijaría sobre todo el curso de acción para la era pos Castro. “Lo más probable es que, por ley de la vida, sea el último que encabece la dirección histórica de la Revolución”, dijo el periódico citando a Raúl Castro, de 78 años.

La agenda es amplia y por eso Raúl Castro pidió más tiempo para discutirla dentro del PCC y con la población. “Si queremos dar un congreso de verdad, buscándole solución a los problemas y mirando hacia el futuro, debe ser así”, explicó, según Granma. □



Una pareja se traslada en bicicleta frente de un cartel con la imagen del ex líder cubano Fidel Castro en Las Tunas, 24 jul 2009. REUTERS/Enrique De La Osa

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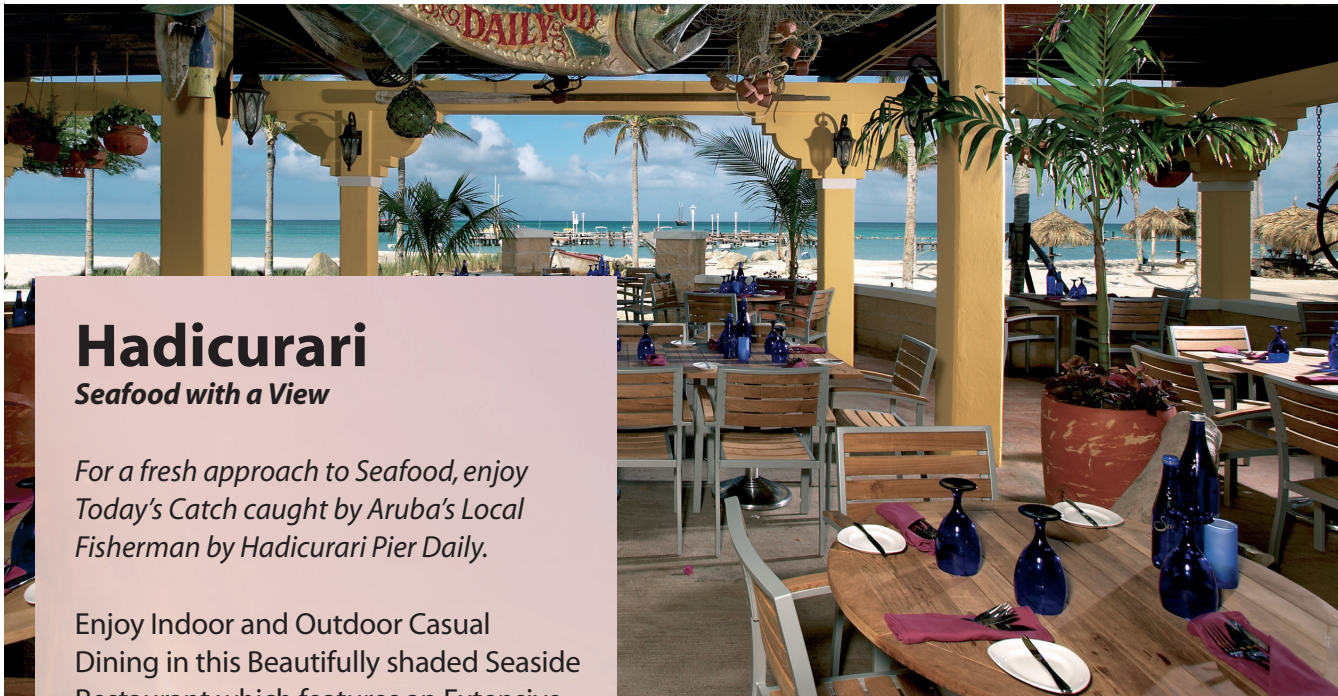
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